

Hon. Richard A. Jones

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

ABHIJIT BAGAL,

Plaintiff(s),

v.

KSHAMA SAWANT, et al.,

Defendant(s).

No. 2:23-cv-00721-RAJ

STANDING ORDER FOR
CIVIL CASES ASSIGNED TO
JUDGE RICHARD A. JONES

**READ THIS ORDER CAREFULLY.
IT CONTROLS THIS CASE AND DIFFERS
IN SOME RESPECTS FROM THE LOCAL RULES.**

- Failure to comply with this Order may result in sanctions. Filings not in compliance with this Order may be stricken. The Local Rules and Federal Rules of Civil Procedure control any issue not specifically addressed in this Order. The Court thanks counsel and the parties for their anticipated cooperation. Counsel are advised to check the Court's procedures regularly, as they are subject to change.
- Plaintiff(s) must immediately serve this Order on all Defendant(s) along with the Summons and Complaint.
- If this case was assigned to this Court after being removed from state court, the Defendant(s) who removed the case must serve this Order on all other parties.

1 This case has been assigned to Judge Richard A. Jones. To secure the just,
2 speedy, and inexpensive determination of this action, counsel are ordered to
3 familiarize themselves with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (“Fed. R. Civ. P.”)
4 and the Local Rules (“L.R.”) of the Western District of Washington.

- 5 1. **Mandatory Courtesy Copies for Chambers:** Courtesy copies are only
6 required for filings of administrative records, and for all civil documents over
7 50 pages. The paper copy of the documents (binders with tabs or other
8 organizing aids as necessary) shall be delivered to the Clerk’s Office by
9 12:00 p.m. on the business day after filing. The chambers copy must be
10 clearly marked with the words “Courtesy Copy of Electronic Filing for
11 Chambers.” The parties are required to print all courtesy copies from
12 CM/ECF using the “Include headers when displaying PDF documents”
13 feature under “Document Options.” This requirement does not apply to
14 pleadings filed under seal.
- 15 2. **Proposed Orders:** Pursuant to this District’s Electronic Filing Procedures
16 for Civil and Criminal Cases, for all motions a proposed order shall be
17 attached as a Word-compatible file to an email sent to
18 jonesorders@wawd.uscourts.gov.
- 19 3. **Service of Pleadings:** Plaintiff must promptly serve the Complaint in
20 accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 and file proof of service. Any defendant not
21 timely served will be dismissed from the action. Any “Doe” or fictitiously
22 named defendant who is not identified and served within 90 days after the
23 case is filed will be dismissed pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(m).
- 24 4. **Temporary Restraining Orders and Injunctions:** Parties seeking
25 emergency or provisional relief must comply with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65 and
26 L.R. 65.

1 **5. Actions Invoking Subject Matter Jurisdiction Based on Diversity:** The
2 burden of persuasion for establishing diversity jurisdiction rests on the party
3 asserting it and must be supported by competent proof. To determine a
4 corporation’s “principal place of business” for the purposes of diversity
5 jurisdiction, the Court will apply the “nerve center” test, which was adopted
6 by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Hertz Corp. v. Friend*, 559 U.S. 77 (2010).
7 The “nerve center” test looks to the single location where the “corporation’s
8 high level officers direct, control, and coordinate the corporation’s activities.”
9 *Id.* at 80. The “nerve center” will typically be the corporation’s headquarters,
10 provided that the headquarters is the actual center of direction, control, and
11 coordination, and not simply an office where the corporation holds its board
12 meetings. *Id.* at 81. Further, the court reminds plaintiffs that they must allege
13 the citizenship of each owner/member of any defendant that is a limited
14 liability company. See *Johnson v. Columbia Props. Anchorage, LP*, 437 F.3d
15 894, 899 (9th Cir. 2006) (“We therefore join our sister circuits and hold that,
16 like a partnership, an LLC is a citizen of every state of which its
17 owners/members are citizens.”). If a party seeks to remove an action to this
18 Court on the basis of diversity in a case where it is not clear from the
19 Complaint that more than \$75,000 is in controversy, the removing party must
20 prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the amount in controversy
21 meets the jurisdictional threshold. *Matheson v. Progressive Specialty Ins.*
22 *Co.*, 319 F.3d 1089, 1090 (9th Cir. 2003). The Court will consider facts
23 presented in the removal petition as well as any summary-judgment-type
24 evidence relevant to the amount in controversy at time of removal. *Id.*
25 Conclusory allegations as to the amount in controversy are insufficient. *Id.*
26 Parties must file an Amended Complaint or Amended Notice of Removal

1 within **fifteen days from the date the action is assigned to Judge Jones** if
2 there is a doubt as to whether they have established the citizenship of the
3 parties or whether they have established the amount in controversy. Failure
4 to comply may result in dismissal or remand.

5 **6. Meet and Confer Requirement:** For all cases, except applications for
6 temporary restraining orders, counsel contemplating the filing of any motion
7 shall first contact opposing counsel to discuss *thoroughly*, preferably in
8 person, the *substance* of the contemplated motion *and any potential*
9 *resolution*. The Court construes this requirement strictly. Half-hearted
10 attempts at compliance with this rule will not satisfy counsel's obligation.
11 The parties must discuss the substantive grounds for the motion and attempt
12 to reach an accord that would eliminate the need for the motion. The Court
13 strongly emphasizes that discussions of the substance of contemplated
14 motions are to take place, if at all possible, in person. *All* motions must
15 include a declaration by counsel briefly describing the parties' discussion and
16 attempt to eliminate the need for the motion and the date of such discussion.
17 Filings not in compliance with this rule may be stricken.

18 **7. Applications to Seal Documents:** It is the Court, not the parties, that
19 determines whether a document can be filed under seal. The Court will only
20 permit filings under seal if the party seeking to seal the information
21 demonstrates why the public's traditional right of access to court documents
22 and the public policies favoring disclosure are outweighed by good cause (if
23 the motion is not case-dispositive) or compelling reasons (if the motion is
24 case-dispositive or the information is included in the operative complaint)
25 that support keeping the information under seal. The fact that a party has
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1 designated a particular document “Confidential” is not sufficient to convince
2 the Court that good cause or compelling reasons exist to seal that document.

3 8. **Attorney’s Fees Motions:** All motions seeking attorney’s fees must be
4 accompanied by an appropriate declaration that attaches all relevant
5 timesheets and costs.

6 9. **Discovery and Initial Disclosures:** The parties shall not file initial
7 disclosures and other discovery on the court’s docket, unless such discovery
8 is the subject of a motion.

9 10. **Legal Citations:** All motions, oppositions, and replies must be supported by
10 relevant legal authority. Citations should be in Blue Book format and must
11 be included in the body of the briefing – the Court does not allow citations in
12 footnotes or endnotes.

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14 DATED: May 17, 2023.

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16 The Honorable Richard A. Jones
17 United States District Judge
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